



CALL FOR WORKSHOPS

Please Note:
Workshop proposals
are due by
March 30, 2007

The 2007 New England Environmental Education Alliance Conference

Building Bridges: Creating Change for a Common Good

To all those who educate for a better future,

We invite you to submit proposals for the 41st Annual; New England Environmental Education Alliance (NEEEA) Conference, hosted by the Maine Environmental Education Association in Smithfield, Maine, September 14-16, 2007. This year's theme is "Building Bridges: Creating Change for a Common Good."

The definition of "Environmental Education" has been discussed and argued for decades. In the meantime, many other names are used for similar educational experiences: conservation education, energy education, ecology education, nature education, sustainability education, marine education, place-based education, etc. **Yet, no matter what we call it, we are all working toward the same end - creating and maintaining a healthy world where nature and the human population work together in partnership.** As in any healthy ecosystem, there are important niches but it is also imperative that all the diverse entities in the ecosystem work together for a common good. In the spirit of collaboration we invite you to reconsider your definitions for the weekend and join together with like-minded people to share, brainstorm and work toward the Common Good!

As educators, one of our main goals is to change human behavior, specifically to foster environmentally positive actions in all realms- personal, social, economic, and political. A recent poll showed that **95% percent of parents believe that environmental education should be taught in schools.** Given these numbers, we must be doing some things right with our programs that create such a demand! And yet, **rarely does the environment make it into most American's top ten list of things they are concerned about.** The question is, are we doing the right things as environmental educators?

Should we be focusing on new audiences, new organizational models, new program venues? If so, which ones and how can we do this together? Are our efforts getting us the best possible results? Can we better evaluate those results? These questions (and more!) form the foundation of the NEEEA 07 Conference.

We will take the aspiration of "building bridges" and explore how it applies to us as professionals, to the programs we run, to our organizations, and to environmental education as a whole. In the spirit of the conference, we will reflect upon our work, learn from others (including those outside of traditional environmental education), and carry forward new strategies that make our work and our organizations more effective, valid and sustainable.

We are encouraging professionals from other fields to join us and share experiences and methods that could be applied to environmental education. NEEEA is seeking proposals from Educators, Entrepreneurs, Leaders, Naturalists, Artists, and All Others who have experience with the following:

- Innovative educational strategies & programs that generate action toward a common good.
- Entrepreneurial approaches that develop programs, products, organizations, or companies that have effected a change in behavior of the participants, members, citizens, and consumers.
- Organizational leadership that envisions new directions, inspires others to take action, manages change, develops partnerships, and builds effective teams that deliver a bigger impact.
- Reflective strategies that facilitate learning, creativity, and breakthrough thinking in education.

NEEEA is looking for proposals as well as exhibits that encourage dialogue and demonstrate how to best work together toward the common good. Our hope is that by "building bridges" we will create change for a common good.

When putting together your workshop, please consider that people learn through a variety of ways. Conferees also appreciate materials to take back with them to use as resources. We encourage workshops that stimulate both sides of the brain!

NEEEA 41st Annual Conference, Sept. 14-16, 2007 in beautiful Smithfield, Maine • www.NEEEA.org

NEEEA Invites Workshop Proposals in 1 of 4 Conference Strands:

- **COMMUNITY:** Local programs and projects that involve diverse members of a community working toward practical solutions and common goals.
- **COLLABORATION:** How can we all work with non-traditional partners to encourage innovation?
- **COMMUNICATION:** What are some creative uses of media, marketing and public relations - OR - What methods can we use to be more effective educators?
- **COMMON GOOD:** What is our common vision and what do we need to do collectively to get there?

Workshops Can Be Offered in 1 of 4 Program Formats:

- **FIELD TRIPS:** Field trips may include visits to unique habitats, natural history exploration, extended time with environmental education leaders learning about field-based projects, or visits with multiple stakeholders concerned with an environmental issue.
- **WORKSHOPS:** Workshops may include discussions, activities, or panels that challenge our thinking, present proven methods that raise our the impact of what we do, and/or give participants skills to develop new strategies and programs.
- **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS:** Roundtable discussions are informal presentations that may overlap two sessions. Participants may enter and leave throughout the discussion.
- **REFLECTIVE ACTIVITY:** Reflective activities allow participants insight into the ways that they connect to the world. These could include discussions, guided hikes with pauses for reflection, or any other activity that give us the time and space to learn from our experience and inspire us to create a bigger impact as educators.

Submit Your Workshop:

Please provide the answers to the following 14 questions in an e-mail and submit to Drew Dumsch, conference co-chair, at drew@fbes.org. Workshop proposals are due by Friday, March 30th, 2007.

If you have questions, call Drew at 207-283-9951.**

- 1) Your Name
- 2) Your Title and Organization
- 3) Your Mailing Address
- 4) Your E-mail Address
- 5) Your Telephone Number
- 6) The title for your Workshop
- 7) Choose a format for your presentation:
Workshop (1.5 hrs), Field Trip (3-6 hrs),
Round Table (1-2 hrs.) OR Reflective (1hr)
- 8) Choose which strand your workshop is aligned to:
Community, Collaboration, Communication, and / or
Common Good.
- 9) What is the intended audience for your workshop?
- 10) Are you bringing an exhibit?
- 11) Do you have any special space requirements or a maximum number of workshop participants?
- 12) How will your workshop address the "Building Bridges: Creating Change for a Common Good," theme? (in 100 words or less, please)
- 13) Please provide the name, phone number and e-mail address of someone who can serve as a reference from your abilities as a presenter.
- 14) Provide a 50-word description of your workshop as it should appear in the conference brochure.

*****All presenters are required to register for this conference. Conference packages range from \$110 for one day to \$280 for all three days (lodging & meals are included). NEEEA will offer a \$50 discount for presenters per workshop and other scholarships are available. You will receive a presenter's registration packet at a later date.***

The 41st Annual Conference of the New England Environmental Alliance

Sept. 14-16, 2007 Camp Matoaka, Smithfield, Maine
"Building Bridges: Creating Change for a Common Good"
for more information go to www.neeea.org

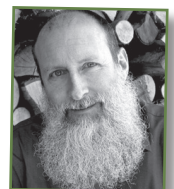
The New England Environmental Education Alliance is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting quality environmental education across New England in partnership with the 6 state environmental education (EE) organizations. Each year the conference is held in a different New England state and is co-sponsored by that state's EE organization. Since 1976, the NEEEA annual conference brings together environmental educators from a wide variety of backgrounds for professional development including skills, building, training in current trends, new research and recent discoveries. Attendees, ranging from students and new front-line educators to administrators and veterans of the field, benefit from the opportunity for peer networking and overall inspiration.



*Featured
Key Note
Presenters
Include:*



Alisa Gravitz



Tom Wessels